Titusville Amateur Radio Club

TARC NEWSLETTER

February 1989

Officers

President: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779
Vice Pres: Bob Nedimeyer W4VQB 269-1878
Secretary: Dennis Wren N4SDI 269-1762
Treasurer: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

President's Corner

Remember the snakes and scorpions up at the repeater site? Well **Wynn, WB4ZUY** and **Dave WB4SIG** have given these critters something to think about. Thanks to Wynn's design ingenuity, he has developed a new logic/control packagefor our repeater. The new package has been installed and is working great. With the new bells and whistles on the repeater, one of our long time members keyed up the repeated and asked if the machine on which he was speaking was the Titusville machine! Many

See **President's Corner** on back.

Classifieds

Wanted – Xtals for Heath SB-202, 146.91, 146.31, 145.01, 145.07; Free – Allied Radio Knight VTVM, not quite working. Doug – N4QVY, 268-1934.

Minutes of the January 24 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Bud (K4CWG). After a brief opening all members and visitors were introduced. Clyde (K4EOS) presented the **Ham of the Year** award to Les (K4SJC). The new officers were introduced to the club. The October minutes were read as the location of the November minutes were unknown. This lead to some confusion with Dan (K3KS) saying that the by-laws were now in effect and not in the minutes. After all was straightened out the minutes were accepted.

Les (K4SJC) reported that the antenna for Charlie (W4AKE) had been cleaned up and returned. Bud (K4CWG) introduced the board members, Wynn (WB4ZUY), Ron (KB4DCZ), Les K4SJC), Wayne (KB4YLY). Credit was given to Wayne (KB4YLY) for the work he did on the Christmas float, also brought up that he is still looking for antennas for field day. Ozzie (N4SCY) has forms for logging in next field day and wants comments on them. Bud (K4CWG) talked about the Christmas parade, a suggestion was made to form a committe to work with the Jaycess for the 1989 parade. Wayne (KB4YLY) brought up the idea of a special event station for the 20th anniversary of the first lunar landing, also the

See **Minutes** on back.

Upcoming Events

> February 28, March 28 – next TARC meetings, 7 p.m., JayCees Building on Singleton Ave.
> Every Thursday night – TARC Friendship Net, 7 p.m., 146.91 MHz
> Every 3rd Saturday – SBARC / ARRL exams, 9:30 a.m. registration, FIT room Q20 under ham radio mast
> February 25 – Seventh Annual Brooksville Hamfest, Hernando County Fairgrounds (S. of Brooksville on U.S. Hwy. 41, Doors open at 8 AM. Call-in: 146.715 MHz.
> April 7-9 – Orlando Hamcation, Orange County Civic Center (I-4, Exit 29), $6.00 advance (before March 15), $8.00 door. Ph (407) 657-9052 for info.

Local Titusville Repeaters

K4SJC (TARC), 146.91, -600 KC
WB4SIG, 444.150, +5 MC
KB4DCZ/TIT, 145.07 Packet, Digi-TheNet

Current Affairs
by Bob Nedimyer – W4VQB

The **featured speaker** for the February meeting will be **Ozzie Osband**, K4SCY. He will talk about **The Packet Racket (why every little bit counts)** (See **Packet CONNECTion** inside – ed.). Be prepared to ask questions even if it shows you are an analog dinosaur. You might find the world of binary digits can 'add' up to alot of new fun. At least you will find out the meaning of those strange terms the digitizers use and maybe even find out why it turns them on (and off and on and...).

The **FCC**, in a surprise move, gave the go-ahead for operation on **17 meters** (see bulletin – ed.). This rather narrow band is from 18.068 to 18.168 MHz. CW is permitted in the entire band while phone is above 18.110 MHz. What's it like? Almost like the old 20 meter band -- with great propagation from 500 to

See **Current Affairs** on back.

Printing Courtesy Of

Brevard Office Equipment Inc.

I Think We Need Some Bug Spray

By

Wynn Rostek (WB4ZUY)

I have been working on a repeater control package for several months. Time permitting, Dave (WB4SIG) has helped, but Dave is in engineering school, and when class is in session he is often too snowed under to help with such trivial matters as repeater control packages.

As a result, Dave sadly turned over his hut keys to me, and warned me about getting stuck in the soft sand (I would like to digress here for a moment and point out that I have never been stuck at the repeater site, but I understand that Dave, alias "call me a tow truck," McLean has bogged down a time or two...). I started making the trip to the hut alone.

Going up to the repeater site alone isn't so bad, you kinda get used to it after a while. Of course you have to watch it once you actually get to the hut because as some of you may remember, we have a small bug problem. It isn't really such a big deal, once in a while a scorpion or black widow spider will inadvertently wander into the hut. They don't cause any real problem, but you do want to watch where you step or reach.

On the evening in question (a Wednesday night about 9 PM I think) I had hauled my repeater controller installation/test kit up to the site along with the latest rev of the controller. I had hoped to check out some new code briefly and get back to the house before the mosquitoes had a chance to strip my car.

I made the mad dash to the gate in record time (no mean feat when you're carrying 100 pounds of electronics gear) and fumbled at the gate briefly while opening the lock. Once the gate was open I flew to hut and removed both locks. Throwing the locks to one side, I heaved on the door for all I was worth.

As many of you know the hut door can sometimes be a little difficult, but I usually manage to convince it to open. Tonight was different, the door swung out about an inch and stopped. I thought I may not have pulled hard enough, so I grabbed the door and bracing my feet against the hut I pulled with all my might.

This time the door swung out about 3 inches and then stopped. I backed away to get a better view, hoping to see what was causing the door to jam. As I watched, the door slowly eased shut.

At this point I thought seriously about packing up and heading home, but just then I noticed a low droning and the moon blacked out. It was too late to head for the car, the mosquitoes were on final approach. In a blind panic I grabbed the door and pulled for all I was worth.

This time the door opened a full foot before it ceased moving. I changed my grip on the door and was ready to open it the rest of the way when I noticed some hairy brown sticks about an inch in diameter slide out around the edge of the door. As I watched dumb founded, the door slowly closed once more. I stood staring at the door, my jaw sagging.

I didn't stand there too long, I was distracted by a huge crash quickly followed by a large whoosh. I spun around and there about 100 feet from my car was a flaming pile of wreckage that had moments before been one of the hut bound mosquitoes.

Real fear set in and with a superhuman strength, I wrenched the hut door open. Quickly I threw the first box of electronics test equipment through the open door. As I was picking up the second box, I heard the hollow boom of the hut door slamming shut. I pulled and pulled on the door, but it wouldn't open more than a few inches. Every time the door would start to open the hairy sticks would come out and the door would slam shut.

I became desperate, the first small mosquitoes almost had the wreckage cleared from the road, in a few short moments the really big mosquitoes would start to land. I rummaged through the remaining box of installation/test equipment and found an old fire axe. Grabbing the axe, I hacked through the 220 volt feeder cable running into the hut. I grabbed the cable a foot back from the end and jammed the bare conductors against the metal hut door.

There was a tremendous flash of light and sparks of molten metal flew through the night. The sound was deafening and the smell of ozone was almost overpowering. A breaker kicked somewhere and the pyrotechnics display came to an end. The door was ajar and I lost no time diving into the hut.

As soon as I was inside I flipped on my tiny flashlight and an unbelievable sight met my eyes. In the far corner of the hut was a huge, charred spider. It was laying on it's back and the legs slowly curled in and out. Whisps of smoke rose from it's heaving body in several places. Terrified, I backed slowly out of the hut, never once taking my eyes from the spider.

The trip back to the car was over in a flash and I barely remember the details of getting the electronics gear the next day. There is one brief moment of that evening that is etched crystal sharp in my mind forever, just as I turned to run to the car, the spider uttered the only words I ever heard it say, "Get him mama."

Now I'm not one to complain, or ask for special favors, but do you think the club could see their way clear to investing in a can of Raid? I'd split the cost with you....

Transistor HI-HI's
submitted by Bob W4VQB
What is solid state? (Alaska in the winter)
Drinking transistorized beer makes you PNP and PNP

Bulletins of Interest

From: N4GMU @ KB4LB To: ARRL @ ARL Date: 890201/1854

HR ARRL BULLETIN NR 8 ARLB008
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT JANUARY 31, 1989
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

FCC has opened the 18 MHz band for amateur operation. Stations with general, admanced and extra class operators are now authorized to use the band from 18.068 to 18.168 MHz. A1A emissions may be used in the whole band. Digital emission F1B for direct printing. Telemetry, telecommand and computer communications is permitted below 18.110 MHz and analog emissions such as FAX, SSTV and phone may be used from 18.110 up. The normal power limit of 1500 watts output applies, but amateur operations must not cause harmful interference to U.S. government and foreign fixed service operations. The authorization is contained in a report and order in PR Docket 88 467. Under its terms and those of WARC 79, the band becomes exclusively amateur on July 1, 1989. AR

From: KI4T @ N4DWY To: NAVTEX @ FLA Date: 881222/0026

CORRECTED NAVTEX OPERATION SCHEDULE

Thanks to AL7IN for corrections and additions.

NAVTEX is a new world-wide weather advisory and warning system for the international maritime community. All stations are currently broadcasting on 518 KHz., and within any given region have staggered schedules so as not to interfere with one another.

NAVTEX broadcasts are in SITOR (identical to AMTOR), and transmitted in broadcast mode on Upper Sideband. Stations owning an AEA PK-232 with the latest software release may put the unit in "NAVTEX" or "AMTOR" opmode. Stations with older software versions may copy it in "ALIST" mode, or "AMTOR" mode with other brands of terminals. If unit does not copy, LSB may be used or receive tones may be reversed.

Each NAVTEX station broadcasts four times a day on a regular basis, but may add additional broadcasts should severe weather advisories or missing ships make it a necessity. If some other communications emergency is occuring, a particular broadcast may be skipped.

Transmitters currently range in power from 1 kw to 5 kw, and the quality of the current antennas vary from 300 foot towers to long wire antennas with negative gain factors. Seventh District Miami Coast Guard can copy most of the East Coast NAVTEX stations, with improved reception at night.

The following data is as of December 1988, and was supplied by US Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC. It will be updated periodically as information becomes available.

Stn. QTH – Stn ID – Broadcast Times (UTC)

Miami – A – 0000, 0600, 1200, 1800
Bermuda* – B – 0100, 0700, 1300, 1900
Portsmouth – N – 0130, 0730, 1330, 1930
New Orleans – G – 0300, 0900, 1500, 2100
San Juan – R – 0415, 1015, 1615, 2215

*Bermuda (M) is not yet on line but imminent.

Nova Scotia, Sydney, Chile, and Argentina are due on line in the future. Data on these will be provided as obtained. West Coast stations already on line are San Francisco (C), Longbeach (Q), and Astoria (W). Kodiak (J) is soon to be on line. Attu (?), Honolulu (O), and Guam (V) are indefinitely delayed.

KI4T @ W4NVU – DADE COUNTY EOC

The Editor's Desk
by Doug Reed – N4QVY

I usually use this column to fill out the remainder of the newsletter. However, with the overwhelming input from the literary giants of TARC, this job is a little easier this month.

Thanks once again to Wynn and Ozzie for their repeat articles,

See **Desk** next column.

The Packet CONNECTion
by Ozzie Osband – N4SCY

Titusville is CONNECTed to the world, via packet radio. Ron KB4DCZ is running the TIT Node on 145.07, and Fred K4DII is running the TIX node on 145.01. While 01 is very busy, the activity available on it is probably a good reason for everyone wanting to use it.

For those wanting to keep up to date with the latest ARRL Bulletins, and other Ham radio news from the world of the Packet BBS's (Bulletin Board Systems), the WD4HIM (Orlando) and KB4LB (Sanford) BBS's are available through the TIT node on 05. The South Brevard boards, N2WX-1, N4JLR, and N5AUV BBS's can be linked to via TIX and 407MLB.

To get to the Orlando area boards, first go through the checklist. Radio on Simplex, on frequency (145.07), and TNC in COMMAND mode. Type "C TIT", and hit <RETURN> (marked <ENTER> on new fangled equipment). You should get the message "*** CONNECTED TO TIT" on your screen. You are then in CONVERSE mode with YOUR TNC, but you then type as if you ae connected to someone elses Terminal Node Controller. In essence, you are.

You then tell TIT to "C KB4LB", which means Connect me to KB4LB in Sanford. Your packet is immediately ACKed from TIT, yet it may take several tries for TIT to get a packet through to, and ACKnowledged by KB4LB. That isn't your lookout though, and is, in fact, why you use a Net Node to route your traffic.

When you are connected, it's just like a landline BBS, it prompts you for commands, and responds with either your requested information, or an error message, but that will be the topic of another article.

To disconnect, send the command "B" to the BBS. This means "Bye", and the BBS instructs its TNC to send a DISCONNECT packet. This is the preferred method, since the BBS gets to keep track of everything that is going on. If you wish, you can disconnect at any time, buy hitting ^C (hacker for the CONTROL-C sequence) to get your "cmd:" prompt, and typing "D" to disconnect.

To get to the Brevard County boards to the South, QSY to 145.01, and connect to TIX. Remember, your first connection must be from Command mode. The other connections are made from Converse mode, because your TNC is connecting you to the other guy's TNC that will be connecting you from there.

Once connected, type "C 407MLB" to get to the Melbourne Net Node. then type "C N2WX-1", or "C N4JLR" or "C N5AUV". Use the same commands as on the other boards. When you type "B" to have the computer disconnect, though, the 407MLB digipeater will surprise you. It will tell you "Disconnected at remote request". the guy at the other end hung up, but you are still connected to 407MLB. this is due to the software in the 407MLB node. You can connect to another BBS from here.

Of course, you could also attempt to connect to any other station, and hold QSO's with live operators, but as a hacker, I'm more comfortable working with computers. Catch me on the repeater for questions, or call me at 267-6844.

Desk...

and Bud, Dennis, and Bob for their late breaking news items. I have captured some bulletins from local packet bulletin boards (PBBSes) for inclusion this month. I hope you will find some or all of this information useful. Thanks to the ham SYSOPs of these boards (WD4HIM, KB4LB, N4JLR, N5AUV) and the interconnecting nodes (TIX, TIT, 407MLB, ORL1, ORL7, COA) for their support.

Articles were sent through varying mediums for this newsletter. Ozzie's packet article was sent during last month's meeting via packet to my home computer which I had left to connect only to Ozzie and to capture and save whatever he sent. Two days after the meeting, I downloaded Dennis' compilation of the minutes from Tech-Talk BBS where he had previously uploaded the same article. Today, I received Bob's input in the form of a typed letter that I entered via my text editor. Tomorrow, I will pick up a 3.5 inch floppy disk from Bud's son, Carl, that will contain **The President's Corner**. As you can see, there are many ways to get an article to the editor for inclusion. All YOU have to do is sit down and put what you normally speak into text of some sort.

Respectfully, Doug – N4QVY

Minutes...
idea of a fox and hound hunt. After some discussion there was enough interest that Wayne will do some more work and have an update at the next meeting.

Clyde (K4EOS) reported a balance of $347.43 in the treasury. The report was moved and accepted. Les (K4SJC) asked Ron (KB4DCZ) about the letter for non-commercial rates for the club autopatch. Ron said there had been no answer as of yet. Bud (K4CWG) brought up a new form for members to fill out. This covers the bands and modes members can cover. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM. The guest speaker gave a talk about the life-line emergency transmitter for home use.

The idea of advanced tickets for Orlando hamfest was brought up. Clyde (K4EOS) offered to purchase several if you want some make arrangements with him. Wynn (WB4ZUY) gave a brief report on repeater work. At 8:50 PM the meeting was adjourned for the second and last time.

– Dennis Wren / N4SDI

The **TARC Newsletter** is (usually) published on a monthly basis. Articles are published based on their newsworthiness to TARC membership, space available, and ease of entry to the publishing medium.

Preferred transfer methods are EMail to N4QVY at Tech-Talk BBS, EMail on 2 meter packet to N4QVY@KB4LB or N4QVY@WD4HIM, direct packet, 3.5" AmigaDOS 880K disk, 3.5" MS-DOS 360K disk, 5.25" MS-DOS 360K disk, direct landline modem, and print / hand-written / hardcopy formats, in that order. Separate each paragraph with a blank line for ease of re-formatting a publishing format.

Article / classified deadline is two Fridays prior to the date of the monthly meeting. The next deadline is **March 17**.

Articles may be given to the editor, Doug – N4QVY, at the IHOP on net nights, or left with Bud – K4CWG, where it will hopefully make its way to the aforementioned editor.

Current Affairs...
1500 miles on a consistent daily basis with lots of surprising DX at this point in the sunspot cycle. It's not crowded so far and it's a pleasure to ragchew on 17 without alot of QRM. We hope it stays like th 12 meter band, that is... NO CONTESTS! Almost everyone on the band is using oddball antennas cut for 160, 80, 40 or whatever. You can get out with just about anything if you massage it with a tuner. Of course a dipole cut to 25' 10" might work better. There are lots of "hams" on this new band trying to make WAS or 100 countries. Jump in and give it a try... it may turn out to be your favorite band.

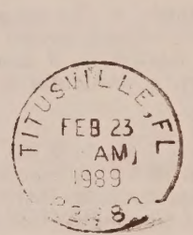
President's Corner...
thanks to the Technical Committee for the ongoing improvements being made to our 31/91 repeater.

Wayne WB4YLY has accepted the appointment as TARC Field Day Chairman. Let's make sure we give Wayne our total support in preparing for the **Field Day** event scheduled for **June 24th and 25th.**

In the January newsletter, there was no mention of the Christmas Parade volunteers... guys I lost my list of the gang who participated, but again, thanks to all who participated.

The Titusville Radio Club welcomes our newest member, **Hal – N4EZD** and thank the following hams for their renewals: **Lou – N2CTQ, Bob – W2NCF, Bruce – K4KON, Jim – W8DGD, Don – WB4CCB, Dave – KF4UN, Vern – KB4RBU, Lloyd – KA4LTK, Les – K4BZJ, Fred – K4ZS, Fred – N4KVN, Bob – WA0KMF, Jason – W4LAC,** and **Jim – W4UYZ**. We welcome back guests **Peggy – K1GSF, R.B. Martin – N4UTR, Faye Martin – KC4HUG, Tony Gerbino – WA2MIK, John Vesty – WA2RDA,** and **Tracy Jacobs,** daughter of Bruce (WA3EKM) and Dawn (KB4BNL) Jacobs and apologize for not getting to know everyone a little better. We also thank **Fred Gallagher**, our guest speaker at the January meeting who gave the most excellant demonstration on **Life-Line**, the volunteer-based emergency response system supported by the Jess Parrish Memorial Hospital Auxilliary.

73, Bud – K4CWG



W4 VQB
Bob Nedimyer
868 Hunter Park
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YOUR CLUB DUES EXPIRE: JAN 90
73 GL ES GUD DX de TARC !